

## The Commonwealth.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor.  
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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1896.

### BRYAN AND SEWALL.

From Nebraska and Maine.

The National Democratic Convention met in Chicago Tuesday, July 7th, and there had been so little done when we went to press last week we could not give any of the proceedings. The convention adjourned Saturday afternoon, and it was so long and tedious we can not give more than an index to it all.

Wm. F. Harrity, chairman of the National Democratic Committee called the convention to order. He presented the name of David B. Hill of New York as recommended by a majority of the national committee for temporary chairman.

Breaking through the precedents of former National Democratic Conventions, a minority report was offered recommending John W. Daniel of Virginia for temporary chairman. Daniel was elected temporary chairman by, in round numbers, 600 to 300.

This was the first step of triumph for the silver forces. Senator Daniel made a most stirring speech and the work of the convention next day was the election of a permanent chairman. Senator White of California was made permanent chairman and Thos. J. Hagan of Ohio was made permanent secretary.

The convention was delayed all day Wednesday waiting for the report of the committee on credentials.

The convention adjourned after 9 o'clock, p. m.

### THE PLATFORM.

The platform committee offered the platform, which is printed elsewhere as was adopted. The minority, or the gold men of the committee, offered a minority report, which is also printed in this issue just following the platform adopted.

### SPEECH MAKING.

Ben Tillman, the "pitch-fork" Senator from South Carolina, as he has been called, spoke fifty minutes for the platform offered. Senator David B. Hill spoke for the substitute, or minority report. Hill's speech was loudly applauded by the gold men. Senator Vilas spoke also for the substitute advocated by Senator Hill. Governor W. E. Russell of Massachusetts also spoke in favor of the substitute.

Ex-Congressman W. J. Bryan of Nebraska closed the debate on the platform. He was given a great ovation and made a great speech.

When the debate was closed the platform was adopted by 608 to 301.

The convention in evening session heard nominations for President.

### THE NOMINATIONS.

Senator Vest of Missouri nominated Richard P. Bland of Missouri.

H. T. Lewis of Georgia nominated W. J. Bryan of Nebraska.

Senator Turple of Indiana nominated Governor Matthews of that State.

Fred White of Iowa nominated ex-Governor Boies of that State.

John S. Rhea nominated J. C. S. Blackburn of Kentucky.

Mr. Patrick of Ohio nominated John R. McLean of that State.

The convention adjourned at 12:35, a. m.

### FOURTH DAY.

Friday morning upon the assembling of the convention, the call of the States was continued. W. F. Harrity nominated ex-Governor Robt. E. Pattison.

Mr. Miller of Oregon nominated Sylvester Penneyer of that State.

### THE BALLOTING.

The names of Bland, Bryan, Boies, Blackburn, Matthews, McLean, Pattison, and Penneyer were before the convention.

The first ballot stood: Bland, 233; Boies, 86; Matthews, 37; McLean, 54; Bryan, 105; Blackburn, 83; Campbell, 2; Penneyer, 10; Tillman, 17; Teller, 8; Hill, 1; Russell, 2; Stevenson, 2; Pattison, 95. Absent and not voting, 185.

The second was: Bland 281; Boies 37; Matthews 34; McLean 53; Bryan 197; Blackburn 41; Pattison 100; Penneyer 8; Stevenson 10; Hill 1; Teller 8. Absent and not voting 160.

The third ballot resulted: Bland, 291; Boies, 36; Matthews, 34; McLean 54; Bryan, 219; Blackburn, 27; Pattison, 96; Stevenson, 9; Hill, 1. Absent and not voting, 162.

The fourth ballot stood: Bland, 241; Boies, 33; Matthews, 36; McLean, 46; Bryan, 280; Blackburn, 27; Pattison, 96; Stevenson, 8; Hill, 1. Absent and not voting, 162.

The whole number of votes was 768 and the clerk announced 512 to be necessary to a choice.

The fifth ballot was commenced. It soon became evident that Bryan was the man. State after State changed votes until Bryan's vote was long ahead, and his nomination was made unanimous amid great enthusiasm and excitement.

### SECOND MAN.

Saturday morning at 11 o'clock the convention was called to order to nominate a man for vice-President.

The names placed before the conven-

tion were George Fred. Williams of Massachusetts, John R. McLean of Ohio, James H. Lewis of Washington, Walter Clark of North Carolina, George W. Fithian of Illinois, Sylvester Penneyer of Oregon, Arthur Sewall of Maine, Joseph C. Sibley of Pennsylvania, John W. Daniel of Virginia.

### THE FIRST BALLOT.

Blackburn	20
Bland	62
Teller	1
Daniel	11
Harrity	21
Boies	20
Williams of Illinois	22
White	1
Fithian	1
Williams of Massachusetts	76
McLean	111
Lewis	11
Clark	5
Sewall	100
Sibley	163

Total number of votes cast.....670  
Absent or excused.....258  
Necessary to a choice.....455

### SECOND BALLOT.

Williams, of Illinois	13
Clark	22
Pattison	1
Harrity	21
Bland	294
Williams, of Massachusetts	16
McLean	158
Sewall	37
Sibley	113

Total vote cast.....675  
Absent or not voting.....255  
Necessary to a choice.....450

### THE THIRD BALLOT.

Pattison	1
Daniel	6
Bland	255
McLean	210
Sewall	97
Harrity	19
Sibley	50
Williams, of Massachusetts	15
Clark	22

FOURTH BALLOT.

Williams, of Massachusetts	9
Clark	46
Harrity	11
Pattison	1
Daniel	54
Sewall	251
McLean	296

Whole number of votes cast.....679  
Absent or not voting.....252  
Necessary to a choice.....452

Before the fifth ballot was taken McLean withdrew and Sewall was nominated.

### GIVE CREDIT, BRETHREN.

It may be none of our business, to be sure; but when we see a newspaper that claims respectability and honesty of purpose in all it does taking bodily editorial articles from another paper and using them editorially in its own columns without a word of credit, we confess to some feeling of disappointment with "the high purpose of the press." If we are not very much mistaken we have seen this quite recently.

THE COMMONWEALTH is willing to suppose, for charity's sake, that such occurrences are mistakes sometimes; but such mistakes ought to be guarded against more carefully.

### A BUSHEL OF CORN.

Some one has made the following calculation of what is in a bushel of corn when distilled into whiskey. It will be observed that the man who produces the corn gets less by far than any one else. The calculation relates to the results in dollars and cents, and leaves the harvest of misery and suffering and death and destruction to be imagined, for it cannot be calculated. Here it is: "A bushel of corn makes four gallons of whiskey, which retails for \$16. Out of this the government gets \$3, the railroads \$1, the manufacturer \$4, the vintner \$7, the farmer forty cents and the drinker the delirium tremens."

### SAD ACCIDENT.

WELDON, N. C. July 13, '96.  
[Correspondence to THE COMMONWEALTH.]

On last Wednesday evening about 2 o'clock, Mr. Sam Garner, a farmer who lives about 4 miles from Weldon with some friends went down to see the rise in the river. Mr. Laffoon, a mechanic, and several of his friends started down to the river to shoot rabbits. When within one hundred yards of the back water a rabbit ran along before them. Mr. Laffoon fired his pistol at the rabbit not seeing Mr. Garner who was hid from sight under the hill. The ball hit Mr. Garner below the breast bone, killing him in about 15 minutes. It was purely an accident. Mr. Laffoon is a clever gentleman and has since made a profession of religion at the meeting going on at the Baptist church.

Mr. Edmundson preached to the ladies on Sunday evening at 4 o'clock on the "New Woman" and last night to a large congregation. About thirteen went forward, some professions and some back sliders, much interest is manifested. The merchants and bar keepers, white and black, close their stores one hour any morning and at 8 o'clock, at night.

The flood in the river has destroyed nearly all the crop in Marsh Island and along the river.

Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies the blood, overcomes that tired feeling, creates an appetite, and gives refreshing sleep.

## NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM ADOPTED AT CHICAGO.

"We the Democrats of the United States, in national convention assembled, do reaffirm our allegiance to those great essential principles of justice and liberty upon which our institutions are founded, and which the Democratic party has advocated from Jefferson's time to our own—freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, the preservation of personal rights, and equality of all citizens before the law and the faithful observance of constitutional limitations. During all these years the Democratic party has resisted the tendency of self-interest toward the centralization of governmental power, and steadily maintained the integrity of the dual rights of government established by the founders of this republic of republics. Under its guidance and teaching the great principle of local self-government has found its best expression in the maintenance of the rights of the States, and in its assertion of the necessity of confining the General Government to the exercise of the powers granted by the Constitution of the United States.

"The Constitution of the United States guarantees to every citizen the right of civil and religious liberty. The Democratic party has always been the exponent of political liberty and religious freedom, and it renews its obligations and reaffirms its devotion to the fundamental principles of the Constitution."

### MONEY QUESTION.

"Recognizing that the money question is paramount to all others at this time, we invite attention to the fact that the Federal Constitution names silver and gold together as the money metals of the United States, and that the first coinage law passed by Congress under the Constitution made the silver dollar the monetary unit and admitted gold to free coinage at a ratio based upon the silver dollar unit.

We declare that the act of 1873 demonetizing silver without the knowledge or approval of the American people has resulted in the appreciation of gold and a corresponding fall in the prices of commodities produced by the people; a heavy increase in the burden of taxation, and of all debts, public and private; the enrichment of the money-lending class at home and abroad; the prostration of industry, and the impoverishment of the poor.

"We are unalterably opposed to monometallism, which has locked fast the prosperity of an industrious people in the paralysis of hard times. Gold monometallism is a British policy and its adoption has brought our nation into financial servitude to London. It is not only un-American, but anti-American, and it can be fastened upon the United States only by the stifling of that spirit and love of liberty which proclaimed our political independence in 1776, and won it in the war of the Revolution.

### FREE COINAGE AT 16 TO 1.

"We demand the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation. We demand that the standard silver dollar shall be of full legal-tender, equally with gold, for all debts, public and private, and we favor such legislation as will prevent for the future the demonetization of any kind of legal-tender money by private contract.

"We are opposed to the policy and practice of surrendering to the holders of the obligations of the United States the option reserved by the government of redeeming such obligations in either silver coin or gold coin.

"We are opposed to the issuing of interest-bearing bonds of the United States in time of peace, and condemn the trafficking with banking syndicates which, in exchange for bonds and at an enormous profit to themselves, supply the Federal Treasury with gold to maintain the policy of gold monometallism.

### AGAINST NATIONAL-BANK NOTES.

"Congress alone has the power to coin and issue money, and President Jackson declared that this power could not be delegated to corporations or individuals.

"We therefore denounce the issuance of notes intended to circulate as money by national banks, as in derogation of the Constitution, and we demand that all paper which is made a legal tender for public and private debts, and which is receivable for dues to the United States, shall be issued by the Government of the United States, and shall be redeemable in coin.

### THE TARIFF.

"We hold that tariff duties should be levied for purposes of revenue, such duties to be so adjusted as to operate equally throughout the country, and not discriminate between class or section, and that taxation should be limited by the needs of the Government, honestly and economically administered.

"We denounce, as disturbing to business, the Republican threat to restore the McKinley law, which has twice been condemned by the people in national elections, and which enacted under the false plea of protection to home industries, proved a profic breeder of trusts and monopolies, enriched the

few at the expense of the many, restricted trade, and deprived the producers of the great American staples of access to their natural markets.

### INCOME TAX.

"Until the money question is settled we are opposed to any agitation for further changes in our tariff laws, except such as are necessary to meet the deficit in revenue caused by the adverse decision of the Supreme Court on the income tax. But for this decision by the Supreme Court there would be no deficit in the revenue under the law passed by a Democratic Congress in strict pursuance of the uniform decisions of that court for nearly 100 years, that court having in that decision sustained constitutional objections to its enactment which had previously been overruled by the ablest judges who ever sat on that bench.

"We declare that it is the duty of Congress to use all the constitutional power which remains after that decision, or which may come from its reversal by the court as it may hereafter be constituted, so that the burdens of taxation may be equally and impartially laid, to the end that wealth may bear its due proportion of the expenses of the government.

### PROTECTION OF LABOR.

"We hold that the most efficient way of protecting American labor is to prevent the importation of foreign pauper labor to compete with it in the home market and that the value of the home market to our American farmers and artisans is greatly reduced by a vicious monetary system, which depresses the prices of their products below the cost of production, and thus deprives them of the means of purchasing the products of our home manufactures and as labor creates the wealth of the country we demand the passage of such laws as may be necessary to protect it in all its rights.

"We are in favor of the arbitration of differences between employers engaged in interstate commerce and their employees, and recommend such legislation as is necessary to carry out this policy.

### CONTROL OF RAILROADS.

"The absorption of wealth by the few, the combination of our leading railroad systems, and the formation of trusts and pools, require a stricter control by the Federal Government of those arteries of commerce. We demand the enlargement of the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and guarantees in the control of railroads as will protect the people from robbery and oppression.

"We denounce the profligate waste of the money wrung from the people by oppressive taxation, and the lavish appropriation of recent Republican Congresses, which have kept taxes high, while the labor that pays them is unemployed, and the products of the people's toil are depressed in price, till they no longer repay the cost of production. We demand a return to that simplicity and economy which best befits a Democratic government, and a reduction in the number of useless offices, the salaries of which drain the substance of the people.

### GOVERNMENT BY INJUNCTION.

"We denounce arbitrary interference by the Federal authorities in local affairs as a violation of the Constitution of the United States and a crime against free institutions, and we especially object to government by injunction as a new and highly dangerous form of oppression, by which the Federal judges, in contempt of the laws of the States and the rights of citizens, become at once legislators, judges, and executioners; and we approve the bill passed at the last session of the United States Senate and now pending in the House of Representatives relative to contempt in Federal courts, and providing trials by jury in certain cases of contempt.

"No discrimination should be indulged by the Government of the United States in favor of any of its debtors. We approve of the refusal of the Fifty-third Congress to pass the Pacific railroad funding bill, and denounce the efforts of the present Republican Congress to enact a similar measure.

### PENSIONS.

"Recognizing the just claims of deserving Union soldiers, we heartily endorse the rule of the present Commissioner of Pensions that no names shall be arbitrarily dropped from the pension-roll, and that the fact of enlistment and service should be deemed conclusive evidence against disease and disability before enlistment.

"We favor the admission of the Territories of New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arizona into the Union as States, and we favor the early admission of all the Territories having the necessary population and resources to entitle them to Statehood, and while they remain Territories we hold that the officials appointed to administer the government of any Territory, together with the District of Columbia and Alaska, should be bona fide residents of the Territory or District in which the duties are to be performed.

"The Democratic party believes in home rule, and that all public lands of the United States should be appropriated to establishment of free homes for American citizens. We recommend that the Territory of Alaska be granted a delegate in Congress, and that the general land and timber laws of the

United States be extended to said Territory.

"The Monroe doctrine, as originally declared, and as interpreted by succeeding Presidents, is a permanent part of the foreign policy of the United States, and must at all times be maintained.

### CUBA.

"We extend our sympathy to the people of Cuba in their heroic struggle for liberty and independence.

"We are opposed to life-tenure in the public service. We favor appointments based upon merit, fixed terms of office, and such an administration of the civil-service laws as will afford equal rights to all citizens of ascertained fitness.

### AGAINST THIRD TERM.

"We declare it to be the unwritten law of this republic, established by the custom and usage of 100 years, and sanctioned by the examples of the greatest and wisest of those who founded and have maintained our government, that no man should be eligible for a third term of the presidential office.

"The Federal Government should care for and improve the Mississippi river and other great waterways of the republic, so as to secure for the interior States easy and cheap transportation to tidewater. When any waterway of the republic is of sufficient importance to demand aid of the government, such aid should be extended upon a definite plan of continuous work until permanent improvement is secured.

"Confiding in the justice of our cause and the necessity of its success at the polls, we submit the foregoing declaration of principles and purposes to the considerate judgment of the American people. We invite the support of all citizens who approve them, and who desire to have them made effective through legislation for the relief of the people, and the restoration of the country's prosperity.

### MINORITY'S SUBSTITUTE.

Following is the substitute by the minority report on the financial plank and the administration.

"To the Democratic National Convention:

"Sixteen delegates, constituting the minority of the Committee on Resolutions, find many declarations in the report of the majority to which they cannot give their assent. Some of these are wholly unnecessary. Some are ill considered and ambiguously phrased, while others are extreme and revolutionary of the well-recognized principles of the party.

"The minority content themselves with this general expression of their dissent, without going into a specific statement of these objectionable features of the report of the majority. But, upon the financial question, which engages at this time the greatest share of public attention, the views of the majority differ so fundamentally from what the minority regard as vital Democratic doctrine as to demand a distinct statement of what they hold to, as the only just and true expression of Democratic faith upon this important issue, as follows, which is offered as a substitute for the financial report of the majority:

"We declare our belief that the experiment on the part of the United States alone of free-silver coinage, and a change in the existing standard of value independently of the action of other great nations, would not only imperil our finances, but would retard or entirely prevent the establishment of international bimetalism, to which the efforts of the government should be steadily directed. It would place this country at once upon a silver basis, impair contracts, disturb business, diminish the purchasing power of the wages of labor, and inflict irreparable evils upon our nation's commerce and industry.

"Until international co-operation among the leading nations for the coinage of silver can be secured, we favor the rigid maintenance of the existing gold standard, as essential to the preservation of our national credit, the redemption of our public pledges, and the keeping inviolate of our country's honor. We insist that all our paper currency shall be kept at a parity with gold. The Democratic party is the party of hard money, and is opposed to legal-tender paper money as a part of our permanent financial system; and we, therefore, favor the gradual retirement and cancellation of all United States notes and Treasury notes under such legislative provisions as will prevent undue contraction. We demand that the national credit shall be resolutely maintained at all times and under all circumstances.

### COMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION.

"The minority also feel that the report of the majority is defective in failing to make any recognition of the honesty, courage, economy, and fidelity of the present Democratic administration, and they therefore offer the following declaration as an amendment to the majority report:

"We commend the honesty, economy, courage, and fidelity of the present Democratic administration."

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Yours truly,  
JAMES S. HARRISON, Cleveland, O.

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